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C O N F I D E N T I A L

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

STAFF FBIS 20825

TO: FBIS/LONDON. Y

SUBJECT: BBC MANAGEMENT Y

[Redacted] Y

1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT REPORT AND COMMENTS ON THE BBC SERVICE REGARDING THE 22 OCTOBER MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE (MLD-5044, 30 OCT 85). I AGREE THAT BBC DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE PROGRESSED MUCH OVER THE YEARS, AND AS FBIS DEVELOPS ITS TECHNOLOGY AND REQUIRES FASTER SERVICE WE ARE GOING TO RUN INTO TROUBLE WITH THE TRADITIONAL "MOM AND POP" PHILOSOPHY OF BBC PROCESSING. WHATEVER YOU CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE BBC TO IRON OUT THE WRINKLES IN THEIR SYSTEM IS WORTHWHILE, BUT ANY REAL PROGRESS IS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR GIVEN THE INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS. Y

2. YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT WE ARE INDEED MOVING AHEAD ON THE IDEA OF A WEST (RATHER THAN SOUTH) EUROPEAN BUREAU. THE IDEA WOULD NOT BE TO REPLACE ANYTHING THE BBC IS NOW DOING BUT TO SET SOMETHING UP IN WEST EUROPE THAT WOULD PROVIDE GOOD COVERAGE OF WEST EUROPEAN TELEVISION, FACSIMILE, RADIO, PRESS, ETC. THIS WOULD ALSO GIVE US A SITE FOR BACKING UP WHAT BBC IS DOING IN THE USSR AND EAST

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AGE	COI	ACP	TOG	VDU	MRO	DCI		
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INDEED, WICH HAS SUGGESTED WE TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT MOSCOW  
 COVERAGE--PMU, BBC, AU, OW, PROD--WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO DO AT SOME  
 POINT. 4

5. IT APPEARS HERE THAT BBC IS SOMEWHAT ADRIFT. WITHEROW WAS  
 REASSIGNED IN MID-MAY; THE DELAY IN NAMING A REPLACEMENT IS NOT  
 CONDUCIVE TO LONG-TERM PLANNING AND GOOD DIRECTION OF THE MONITORING  
 SERVICE. THERE IS A VACUUM AT THE TOP, AND FIRST-LINE  
 MANAGERS--ELLIOTT, OFFORD, ETC.--ARE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED. ALL  
 THIS WORKS AGAINST PROGRESSIVE ACTIVITY IN THE MONITORING SERVICE  
 MANAGEMENT. LET'S HOPE THE LEADERSHIP QUESTION IS RESOLVED SOON.

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[Redacted]

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